(c) whether it is a fact that Banks are co-operating in achieving the targets in the State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANKER BAKHT): (a) The year-wise targets for beneficiaries under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last 3 years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 were 22,150 beneficiaries; 22,150 beneficiaries and 21,500 beneficiaries respectively in Bihar.

(b) During this period i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98, as many as 17,924 beneficiaries; 18,818 beneficiaries and 13,860 beneficiaries for the respective years were sanctioned loan by the Banks in Bihar State.

(c) and (d) The performance of Banks in Bihar as compared to the All India performance has been on the lower side. Monitoring and reviews are done to improve the performance of the scheme from time to time.

Closure of non-SSI industrial units in Gujarat

1248. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly two hundred non-SSI industrial units are lying closed in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, industry-wise;

(c) whether Government have prepared any revival plan for these industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

अमरीकी कंपनियों द्वारा पेटेंट कराया जाना

1249. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अमरीका द्वारा बौद्धिक, जैविक संपदा तथा चिकित्सा के लिए उपयोगी वनस्पतियों सहित अब तक किन-किन वस्तुओं का पेटेंट कर लिया गया है और वह किन-किन वस्तुओं का पेटेंट करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

(ख) क्या सरकार पहले से पेटेंट की गई वस्तुओं को अमरीकी पेटेंट कानून से मुक्त कराने तथा इस प्रथा को रोकने के लिए कोई ठोस/प्रभावी कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) से (ग) सरकार द्वारा ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं रखी जाती है। तथापि, वनस्पतियों के लिए पेटेंट मंजूर नहीं किये जा सकते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, पेटेंटों की मंजूरी विभिन्न सरकारों द्वारा अपने-अपने पेटेंट कानूनों के तहत दी जाती है। जब कभी उन कुछेक उत्पादों, जिन्हें पेटेंट-योग्य नहीं समझा जाता है, पर पेटेंट लेने के बारे में सूचना प्राप्त होती है, तो इस बात को निश्चित करने के प्रयास किये जाते हैं कि क्या पेटेंट प्रदान करने को चुनौती दी जा सकती है। इस संबंध में पर्याप्त सामग्री एकत्रित किए जाने के बाद उस देश में पेटेंट की पुनः जांच कराए जाने और अन्ततः उसे रद्द करने हेतु एक याचिका दायर करने के लिए कदम उठाए जाते हैं।

Enlistment of Sick PSUs with BIFR

1250. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick CPSUs enlisted with BIFR;

(b) the total number of employees in the above units including contract/casual labour;

(c) the number of ancillary units associated with the above CPSUs; and

(d) the Government's action plan to revive these units alongwith the time-frame for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As on

31.3.1998, 62 Central PSUs have been registered with the BIFR.

(b) The information with regard to number of employees in Central PSUs including sick PSUs is available at Statement No. 28, Volume I of PE Survey 1995-96, which has already been laid in both the Houses of the Parliament and is a published document.

(c) No centralised data is maintained in regard to number of ancillary units associated with the Central PSUs.

(d) Sick Industrial Central PSUs are referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulation of revival/rehabilitation package. As on 31.3.1998 out of the 62 PSUs referred to the BIFR, 2 PSUs have already been revived and in respect of 19 PSUs, BIFR have approved the revival packages which are at different stages of implementation. The concerned administrative Ministries also endeavour to take a number of time bound turn around measures like professionalisation of Boards, infusion of funds, organisational and financial restructuring, etc. This is a continuous process.

Demand for automobile

1251. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is projected demand for automobiles in the country, during the 9th Plan period;

(b) What is total licensed capacity of automobile production in India;

(c) what is the actual production of automobilies in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that the automobiles production in India is more than its demand; and

(e) whether there is any commitmen for export before licensing?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) According to the working group of Planning Commission for 9th Plan year-wise projected demand for various types of vehicles in the country during 9th Plan period is as under:

(in 000 Nos.)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Cars	480	550	630	720	800
Light Commercial Vehicles	170	185	205	225	250
Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles	160	175	195	215	235
Two Wheelers	3300	3600	3900	4200	4300
Three Wheelers	220	240	240	280	300

(b) Automobile industry is a delicensed industry. Hence licensed capacity in present scenario has no relevance.

(c) Actual production of different types of vehicles during 1997-98 is given below:

Number of Vehicles

Type of Vehicles	Production
Cars	4,01,002
Light Commercial Vehicles	65,067
Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles	95,931

Type of Vehicles	Production
Multi-Utility Vehicles	1,34,613
Two Wheelers'	30,72,667
Three Wheelers	2,34,867
TOTAL:	40,04,147

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Loss in HMT

1252. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HMT watch Division is losing heavily;

(b) what is the total cumulative loss incurred by the Watch Division; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to review the watch factory?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cumulative loss incurred by the Watch Division is Rs. 21 Crores.

(c) The performance of HMT is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Government.

Policy formulation for wood based industries

1253. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new policy has been formulated/proposed to be laid down in the forest areas for wood based industries after the enactment of Forest Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop wood based industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No new policy has been formulated in the forest areas for wood-based industries.

(c) Vide Press Note No. 11(1997 series) issued on 17th July, 1997 by the Ministry of Industry, plywood, veneers of all types and other wood based products such as particle board, medium density fibre board/block board have since been de-licensed subject to locational conditions, and relevant statutes/statutory/policy notifications such as the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, National Forest Policy and directions and decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Industrial Mishaps

1254. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that quite a large number of Industries have experienced blast and industrial mishap during last three years;

(b) whether Government have collected reports on such blasts or mishaps;

(c) whether it is a fact that no specifications on construction, storage, pipelines, reactors have been evolved by his Ministry; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Industrial inspectors have not been rigidly implementing safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Salt in Thane

1255. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantum of salt produced in the district of Thane;

(b) what are the number of people employed in this industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that the labour on salt plants will be rendered jobless due to the new Government's policy on salt manufacturing;

(d) whether it is a fact that unhappy labour have demonstrated at the office of Inspector Salt at Bhainder in Thane district; and

(e) whether Government will permit continuance of operations, through the **traditional salt pan labour?**

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The total quantum of salt produced in the district of Thane in Maharashtra is about 1.7 lakh tonnes per year.

(b) The number of people employed in salt industry in the district of Thane is reported to be about 3000.

(c) No, sir. The policy of banning sale of non-iodised salt for edible purpose will **not render salt labourers jobless.**

(d) Yes, Sir. The salt labourers of Mira-Bhayander area in the district of Thane demonstrated opposing the nation wide ban on sale of non-iodised salt for edible purpose;

(e) Yes, Sir.

Recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee

1256. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the recommendation of the Abid Hussain Committee, the S.S.I. exemption limit was raised to rupees three crores some time last year end;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister in one of his recent statements mentioned that the above limit will be reduced to rupees one crore;

(c) if so, is it not against the developmental aspects of S.S.I. Units, especially when the environmental regulations are strictly to be followed resulting in investment cost increase; and

(d) the action taken to restore the limit of rupees three crores?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Perhaps the intention of the question is to seek information on SSI investment ceiling and not on SSI exemption limit. Abid Hussain Committee had recommended raising investment limit for SSI to Rs. 3 crores; based upon which the investment ceiling for SSI was raised to Rs. 3 crores in December, 97.

(b) Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in a seminar on 29.4.98 that the investment limit for small scale industries will be reduced from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(c) No, Sir. The Industry Representatives have been pressing for lowering the investment limit for SSI from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore with the apprehension that major portion of institutional credit will be cornered by bigger small units. Pollution Control and Research and Development equipments are not included in the list of plant and machinery for the purpose of computing value of plant and machinery to determine whether the investment of a unit falls below the limit prescribed for small scale industry.

(d) The investment limit of Rs. 3 crores has not been changed so far. However, action to reduce the same from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore is being initiated.

प्रशुल्क आयोग

1257. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने प्रशुल्क आयोग को वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के अन्तर्गत लाने के लिए कोई नीतिगत निर्णय लिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे कौन से कारण थे जिनकी वजह से सरकार को ऐसा निर्णय लेना पड़ा और इस निर्णय का उनके मंत्रालय पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

बिहार में प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत प्राप्त आवेदन-पत्र

1258. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1996-97 में बिहार राज्य में प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवकों से 1996-97 के दौरान स्व-रोजगार हेतु कितने आवेदन-पत्र प्राप्त हुए और कितने आवेदन-पत्र स्वीकृत किए गए;

(ख) क्या इस योजना के अन्तर्गत ऋण स्वीकृत किए जाने के मामले में शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के बीच भेदभाव किया जा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) गत वर्ष के दौरान इस योजना के अन्तर्गत बिहार के लिए अधिकतम कितनी ऋण-राशि स्वीकृत की गई; और

(ङ) वर्ष 1998-99 में कितनी ऋण-राशि स्वीकृत करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवकों से स्व-रोजगार के लिए जिला उद्योग केन्द्रों में 58,714 आवेदन प्राप्त हुये थे तथा वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान बिहार राज्य में बैंकों द्वारा 18,818 आवेदन स्वीकृत किये गये थे।

(ख) और (ग) ग्रामीण तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों के बीच ऋण आवेदनों को स्वीकृत करने में बैंकों द्वारा दर्शाए गए भेद-भाव के बारे में कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं है, जैसा कि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है।

(घ) बिहार राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार 1997-98 के दौरान राज्य में स्वीकृत किया गया औसत ऋण लगभग 80,000/- रु० है। इस योजना के अन्तर्गत 1 लाख रु० तक की लागत वाली परियोजना आती है।

(ङ) वर्ष 1998-99 के लिये बिहार का प्रस्तावित लक्ष्य 20,500 लाभार्थी हैं।

Growth Centre in Assam

1259. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of growth centre, to be set up in Assam;

(b) the amount allocated and location finalised; and

(c) the progress of work?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Three Growth Centres have been allotted to the State of Assam. Of these, two Growth Centres i.e. Chariduar (district Sonitput) and Matia (district Goalpara) were approved in 1997. The State Government is yet to submit a project report in respect of the third Growth Centre where a change in site for the Growth Centre is contemplated by the State Government.

The progress made in respect of the approved growth centres upto 31st March, 1998, is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of growth centre	Central releases	State release	Total Expenditure
Chariduar	50.00	05.00	17.00
Matia	50.00	Nil	15.00

Loans to SC/ST under PMRY

1260. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons belonging to SC/ST community have been provided with loans under the PM Rojgar Yojana; and

(b) how many persons belonging to SC/ST community doing the work of scavengers have been rehabilitated during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana of the Ministry of Industry, loans are facilitated to educated unemployed youth, as per the eligibility criteria laid down under the scheme. As per reports available from States/UTs, 59004 SC/ST beneficiaries have been provided loans since inception of the scheme.

(b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana loans are facilitated to educated unemployed youths. Self-employment is the primary objective of the scheme, though some scavengers may get rehabilitated. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under their Scheme of Rehabilitation of Scavengers rehabilitated 60565 scavengers in 1996-97. By and large scavengers belong to the Scheduled castes. In some areas/pockets, scavengers do not belong to the scheduled caste community, but their number is very small.

Disputes under arbitration in PSUs

1261. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disputes under arbitration in various Public Sector Undertakings, Undertaking-wise, as on 31st March, 98;

(b) total number of cases decided during the year 1994-95 and awards implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that backlog of arbitration cases and cases of outstanding disputed claims are mounting every year and have assumed serious proportion;

(d) whether the problem of settling outstanding dispute/claims expeditiously has been considered in all its aspects and a regular body of experts is proposed to be set up for speedy disposal of claims/cases; and

(e) the details of proposals under consideration/finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As on 31.3.98 there are total 33 commercial disputes in Permanent Machinery of Arbitrators in Deptt. of Public Enterprises between various Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) During the year 1994-95, seven cases were decided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to set up any other regular body of experts for settling the disputes between PSUs.

Cost overrun of PSUs

1262. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost overrun of PSUs on account of rise in input costs mainly oil, coal and freight traffic; and

(b) whether Government had visualised this cost overrun before formulating the planning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The Central Sector projects are approved at estimated costs corresponding to the price level existing in the year of approval. As on December, 1997, 454 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, monitored by the Government, had a total cost overrun of Rs. 21,063 crores including cost overrun on account of rise in input costs of oil, coal and freight traffic as also other factors with respect to their latest approved cost of Rs. 1,46,168 crores.

(b) The increase in cost during the period of construction due to cost escalation including rise in input costs on account of oil, coal, freight traffic and other factors depending upon the nature of a project is visualised by the project authorities and they are included in the revised cost estimates of projects.